

Native Plant List-Feb 2004 Episode

Botanical Name

Common Name

Elymus condensatus 'Canyon Prince'

Giant Wild Rye

An outstanding silver blue foliage grass. Grows to 18" tall. Tolerates extreme soil conditions, doing equally as well in heavy wet clay soil to dry rocky slopes. It spreads in a clump, best under dry conditions that will keep it in check.

Erigeron glauca compacta

Dwarf Beach Aster

A low native ground cover, with lavender-pink daisy flowers, it blooms heaviest in the early summer. It's quite drought tolerant but looks better with some supplemental water in the summer. Attractive broad leaves are a light bluish green. Even when not in bloom the plant is refined and elegant. Best in full sun, but will tolerate part shade.

Euphorbia xanthii

A Mexican shrubby perennial with showy clusters of small pink flowers atop slender arching stems. Long blooming, can grow to about 6' , once established will sucker and makes a clump. Common in Baja, it loves heat and abuse. The flowers are lightly fragrant.

Hesperaloe parviflora 'Yellow'

A southwest native, from Texas through northern Mexico. It forms spiky rosettes of foliage with white strings curling off edges, clusters of tubular flowers form atop 3' spikes in the summer, very drought tolerant. This selection has light yellow flowers instead of the usual reddish coral. Great for hummingbirds.

Juncus patens

Rushes are similar to grasses, this west coast native has narrow gray green leaves. It's from moist habitats, but tolerant drought conditions, grows to 2' if grown hard in the sun and up to 4' if soft grown. It's spiky upright form makes it an ideal accent plant. Looks best with some additional summer water.

Quercus agrifolia

California Oak

Our most common evergreen native oak tree. They can get to be a big tree about 40' tall and wide. In San Diego they grow in the bottom of canyons and on the north sides of hills where they have more access to more water. Small dark green leathery leaves thickly cover the strong picturesque branch structure. In nature the grow slowly, under garden contains they can become a good sized tree in 15 years. Old native trees should not be watered because

Romneya coulteri

Matilija Poppy

A native clumping perennial with gray foliage up and down the tall stems. Large fragrant white flowers with yellow centers resembling fried eggs bloom in the late spring and summer, can be used as a cut flower, some seal the stems with a flame. The plant is known to be somewhat difficult to get started, but once established can be invasive or at least a very large plant. Propagation is best in late winter, by digging and dividing large pieces of

Salvia clevelandii 'Allen Chickering'

A San Diego native Salvia selection with very fragrant gray foliage. It bears light blue flowers on tall spikes to 4' tall. Can tolerate some summer watering with good drainage. Can be used as a substitute for culinary sage. Can be kept neat by making heading back cuts by one third regularly.

Chilopsis 'Burgundy Lip'

Desert Willow

This California native is found desert washes. It makes a small deciduous tree to about 10' . Pink trumpet flowers in summer. This selection has bold burgundy lip. Very Drought tolerant, loves heat, winter dormant

Salvia leucophylla x 'Bees Bliss'

A California native hybrid. It's low growth habit of less than one foot, makes it a great drought tolerant ground cover. Flower spikes are large lavender-pink. Full sun is best with good drainage. It's parentage is thought to be Salvia leucophylla x clevelandii or sonomensis

Rhamnus 'Eve Chase'

Coffee Berry

An evergreen shrub that grows fast to 6-8'. It's native from the Oregon Coast ranges through most of California into Arizona and Baja. It grows in full sun to part shade and has low water requirements. The berries turn red, then black. This plant is very drought tolerant, almost always deer proof. It also makes a great fire break if watered occasionally. It's a great wildlife plant.

Galvezia juncea

Baja Bush Snapdragon

This species is a smaller leafed, more drought tolerant version of the more common Galvezia speciosa, native to the Channel Islands of the coast of Southern California. This Baja native has red tubular flowers, grayish foliage, can be grown in full sun or part shade. Tolerates regular garden water as well. When kept dry, it stays under 3', in the shade or with ample water it can grow to 6' or more. The red flowers are a magnet for hummingbirds.

Poppy - Eschscholzia c. 'Mikado'

California Poppy

The California Poppy. A native annual with grayish foliage and a bright orange flower. This selection has darker red-orange flower. Grows best in sunny conditions, commonly grown from seed.

Phacelia campanularia

Desert Bluebell

This attractive annual is a southwest desert native. It grows 1-2 foot tall with royal blue one inch flowers. It is very showy with interior heat. Great in mass planting. Can be easily grown from seed.